

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009  
1:30 PM

The Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida was called to order by Mayor Susan Whelchel at 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Susan Whelchel  
Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie  
Council Member Anthony Majhess  
Council Member Michael Mullaugh  
Council Member Constance Scott

Also attending the meeting were:

City Manager Leif J. Ahnell  
City Attorney Diana Grub Frieser  
City Clerk Sharma Hagerty

**PROCLAMATION:**

Dump the Pump Day - June 18, 2009

Jeremy Mullins, with the Florida Department of Transportation, and Sabrina Glenn, Transportation Management Initiative Administrator, accepted the proclamation.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

- a. Community Relations Board – one (1) student vacancy.

Holden Schroeder expressed interest in serving on the Board.

Mayor Whelchel reminded those present that Julia Berger was out of town this week and had previously interviewed for this position at the last Workshop meeting. Deputy Mayor Haynie referred to a note in the agenda books regarding a forthcoming opinion by the City Attorney as to whether Ms. Berger was eligible to serve on this Board since her mother is the Chair. Ms. Frieser advised that she would follow up. Ms. Haynie added that Ms. Berger indicated interest in serving either on the Community Relations Board or the Education Advisory Board.

- b. Education Advisory Board – one (1) “ex officio” student vacancy.

Holden Schroeder also interviewed for this student vacancy.

- c. Historic Preservation Board – three (3) vacancies.

Arlene Owens and Bonnie Dearborn expressed interest in serving on the Board.

**2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

John Stetz urged Council to be progressive and move forward with implementation of renewable energy sources, suggesting that Boca Raton follow the lead of Ft. Lauderdale. He then advocated support for a new downtown library and opposition to an ice skating rink (a proposal last discussed by Council in January 2008).

Jim Knight referred to his letter of May 19, 2009, to Mayor Whelchel, regarding the former Hidden Valley Executive Golf Course aka East Banyan Estates, advising that he sought to confirm the City's position that there was no intention to purchase same; he then read his letter into the record. Responding to the City Manager, Mr. Knight advised that the property was for sale at \$10 million for 50 acres; however, he would retain the five front

acres where the parking lot resides. At this time, the City Attorney advised that an answer did not have to be rendered today; Council could simply weigh in on the legislative issue about interest in acquiring land for the public.

Generally, it appeared Council was not interested in pursuing the acquisition of this land. Following a query from Mr. Knight, Mr. Ahnell indicated that, hearing nothing further from Council, he would write a letter confirming the City's position. At this time, Council Member Majhess advised that he was interested in having the City Manager find a way to buy the land. Mr. Ahnell explained that in prior discussions, which came up as recently as a year ago, it was determined that if the City or the Beach and Parks District acquired the land, it would be for the purpose of creating much needed ballfields. However, residents expressed that they did not want to see ballfields in that area. Responding to comments from Mr. Majhess, Mr. Knight provided information related to the Planning and Zoning Board meeting wherein this matter was considered and advised that there appeared to be a division between those residents who desire only green space (an inactive property) and those residents who want to see an active property; details were provided. At this time, Council Member Majhess and Mayor Whelchel gave additional commentary. Mr. Knight concluded his remarks by indicating he wished to clarify for residents that the City had no plans to purchase the land for a park; in this way, he hoped to move forward with his project.

**3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Agenda Item No. 6 – Ordinance No. 5099 / Code amendment modifying the limitations for the number of driveways permitted in certain residential plots and providing the opportunity to seek a technical deviation in case of special considerations and exceptions in single family districts) Deputy Mayor Haynie questioned where in the Code the City regulates the widths of driveways; she also questioned what the limit would be on the cumulative width of three driveways with 200 linear feet (of frontage). Mr. Ahnell advised that the minimum width of a driveway would be 12 feet; the maximum width is 24 feet. Ms. Haynie then confirmed with the City Manager that the technical deviation portion of the ordinance would allow for a deviation in the width of a driveway.

**4. FUTURE AGENDA MATTERS/ITEMS OF COUNCIL/PUBLIC CONCERN:**

There were no items for consideration.

**5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**

- a. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Discussion

Assistant City Manager Mike Woika provided a PowerPoint presentation, advising that the City was currently in the process of applying for an allocation of \$990,300 from the Department of Energy. He noted that staff was determining how to apply for those funds; the deadline for submittal is June 25, 2009. Following input from Council today, staff would prepare a strategy and the requisite paperwork, which would be brought forward to Council at the next meeting on June 23, 2009. Mr. Woika explained that, in addition to the application, a conservation strategy must be submitted and annual reports are required as part of this grant.

Based on input from Council received at the April 27, 2009 meeting, information from vendors, online research, meetings with other communities and the City's Green Partners, staff prepared a list of proposed projects for Council's consideration. Those projects included energy retrofits for City buildings, hybrid vehicle purchases, tennis court lighting, incentives to reduce single occupancy vehicles, retrofit of illuminated street signs, outdoor lighting retrofits, a demonstration park, and renewable energy demonstration projects for a City building or a residential building; details were provided on all the above. Mr. Woika also responded to questions from Council throughout the presentation. Additional projects were reviewed and included an energy efficiency revolving loan program, retrofitting of downtown street lighting, bicycle lanes along SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street, community sustainability staffing (temporary) for energy efficiency projects, electric vehicle recharging stations, production of biodiesel fuel, and conversion of electric carts to solar. At this time, Mr. Woika answered further questions from Council regarding whether

there was adequate staff to implement the projects, the electric cart conversion, a demonstration park as it relates to Sand Pine Park, and the deadline for completion of these projects.

Mr. Woika then advised Council that Boca Raton Green Partners rated the following projects as top priorities: 1) energy retrofits for City buildings, 2) community sustainability staffing, 3) incentives to reduce single occupancy vehicles, 4) hybrid vehicle purchases, and 5) retrofitting of illuminated street signs. Again, Mr. Woika responded to questions and advised that, after reviewing all the information, staff determined that the proposed projects fall into three areas; specifically, energy reduction / increased efficiency; decreased fossil fuel use (vehicles); and energy efficiency education. Consequently, staff proposed, for Council's consideration, seven projects for submittal: 1) energy retrofits for City buildings, 2) retrofitting of illuminated street signs, 3) retrofitting of downtown street lighting, 4) outdoor lighting retrofits, 5) hybrid vehicle purchases, 6) incentives to reduce single occupancy vehicles, and 7) a demonstration park. Responding to Council, Mr. Woika advised that staff could calculate or benchmark energy costs vs. savings. He also provided additional information related to incentive programs for vehicles, renewable energy efficiency programs for residences, the demonstration project/park, and revolving loan funds. Mr. Woika concluded by stating that a list of projects was needed from Council with which to prepare the application for the grant.

*(The Workshop meeting was recessed at 1:29 pm and reconvened at 4:40 pm)*

Discussion focused on residential components in the demonstration park; Council suggested replacing the incentive program for vehicles with residential incentive programs. Mr. Ahnell suggested that allocations for vehicles could be included now and then allocations for residential components could be addressed during the budget process. At this time, he confirmed that staff would finalize this list and bring it back to Council in two weeks. It was noted that, should Council have any other suggestions, they could make them known tomorrow night. Council Member Scott advocated the revolving loan / matching fund program.

#### Boca Raton Green Partners / Green Living Task Force

Assistant City Manager Mike Woika gave the PowerPoint presentation, providing an overview of the membership that encompassed the Green Partners; the proposed Green Living Task Force would comprise the residential component of the partnership. Its purpose would be to create a long-term strategic plan for the residential element of the community; details were provided. This membership would be made up of nine people with each member being a City resident; however, two could be non-residents, who work in the City and possess expertise, knowledge, and/or interest in environmental conservation and sustainability. The task force would have until September 30, 2010 to finish its fact-finding and come up with a strategic plan to present to Council, at which time the group would sunset - unless Council chose to extend the life of the group or the report was completed earlier. Barring objections from Council and following passage of a resolution establishing the task force, Mr. Woika indicated that staff would put together an application and make it available on the City's website; the City Clerk's Office would collect those applications for Council's future consideration.

## **6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:**

Responding to an earlier question regarding the eligibility of Julia Berger to serve on the Community Relations Board (CRB), Ms. Frieser explained that she can serve on this Board where her mother currently serves as the Chairman; it is not a violation of law. The only restriction that applies relates to the anti-nepotism rules, which apply to all public officers; however, they do not prohibit service on the same body. She added that, as a matter of perception and since there are two students applying for the CRB student vacancy, Council might wish to address the anti-nepotism rules and act accordingly, since the same two students applied for the CRB and the Education Advisory Board.

## **7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:**

Council Member Mullaugh referred to prior Community Redevelopment Agency discussions about attracting more people to the downtown and questioned whether the City could periodically schedule events or groups, possibly in conjunction with the Centre for the Arts, which might make the downtown a more viable destination.

Council Members Majhess and Scott voiced agreement with Mr. Mullaugh and offered various suggestions.

Mayor Whelchel cautioned against “reinventing the wheel” and suggested looking at what other cities do that brings success.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2009.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk